FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1905.

THE MORNING ASTORIAN, ASTORIA, OREGON.



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ORTIFIED against the day's un | kindly promise by a melan choly breakfast, Kendall returned to the upper regions of the boarding house and resolutely sat down to write. There my before him the first pages of a story. It had stop ped like a cheap clock in the small hours of the morning, and he had abandoned it with a groan and had gone to bed. But the thing must be tinkered and put together and wound



SHE HAD MERELY STOPPED AT HIS DOOR

up and sold. He scanned it in the cold light of day and was amazed to find some good in it, a clever bit of characterization wasted, a touch of the and heavy with discouragement. picturesque oddly out of place, a glint of truth in a muddy mess of insinceri ty. There was even a pleasant jingle in the language, marred by dissonances unnatural and malicious, as if the very devil had jogged the author's elbow.

Kendall read and was affected with pity of himself and with a certain sympathy, a sorrowing tenderness, for the poor stuff that he had labored to pro and letters and an odd assortment of duce, the misbegotten child of fait abilities.

A weak, uneven tapping at the door

they live here upon greatly reduced terms because of relationship. You doubtless know the situation."

"Mrs. Cameron exulained it to me." said the doctor cautiously. "She mentioned an indebtedness which- Confound it!" he broke out. "If those people would stop worrying, the girl would be as well as I am in six months." Kendali was very pale, and his face looked drawn and old.

"You are aware that I was engaged have done them in the past, and they

scarcely make my living. And the are three good hours before 12." the last straw upon their backs. Miss Graham's offer?" Cameron has released me from the engagement peremptorily. She will not

would not let me save her life." "Unless you had the strength to carry the matter with a high hand," re sponded the doctor. "And, speaking of your strength, I am not your med-

ical adviser, but if you will grant me for a moment the greater privilege of advising you as a friend 1 shall suggest for you also a change of scene. I think you should not uselessly wreck your own career, of whose promise I have heard some very flattering things." "I thank you," said Kendall coldly. And the doctor took his leave.

Again Kendali paced back and forth and summoned up his courage with even less profit than before. Then he sat an hour with Edith and resurned to his own room, his heart sore with love

And at about the same hour there were two men talking of this very matter. One of them was Kendall's age. though he looked younger. He spoke vigorously, smoked hard between whiles and walked the floor with an air of zest in the exercise. The other was much older. His face was deeply lined and thoughtful. He sat by a broad, flat topped desk littered with manuscripts reference books, big and little.

"You have chosen the flower of the flock," said the younger man. "Kendail -a knock that was as characteristic as is not only a natural born correspondhandwriting and revealed a fixed habit ent, with the gift of getting the truth of indecision-summoned Kendall to but he is the very man physically for

on with your work?" Kendall shook his head. "Very badly," said he. "My work in most respects has gone back. It is I

that have advanced, and I really didn't know it myself until this evening. There is my debt to you. It is the way you have spoken of a man's life that has opened my eyes. Why, Jack, you've been talking of boys' games, the healthful amusements and exercises of youth, which fit us for the serious business of the world. Do you really fancy that following an army and living on horse meat and sleeping in six inches of dirty water in the bottom of an abandoned trench constitute a great achievement that is worth while in itself? My dear boy, I have outgrown such things, I

to Miss Cameron," said he, "In such benefited me as much as football, percircumstances at the time of Miss Cam | haps a little more. It remains for meeron's illness her mother, with great re now that you have brought these early luctance, permitted me to assist in lessons back to my remembrance-to meeting some demands. I was then in take the good of them and profit by the a fair way, but now"-his voice sud patience, strength and resourcefulness denly became shrill and tremulous- and courage that they taught me. I will "now I have gone all to pieces. I can begin tomorrow-no, tonight, for there

knowledge of my altered condition is "But-but aren't you going to take-

"I can't consider it. The war in the east is no doubt an important matter hear of its continuance, believing her for those who are engaged in it, but not own case to be hopeless and herself a for me. Certainty I can't afford to look mere burden. So, even if I had the on at it. I can't afford to be a looker money, they would not take it. They on right here and now, for there is war all around us, and I stand armed in the thick of it. I have dropped my pen and taken up the sword while you and

I have sat here at this table." "What do you mean? "I mean that the first duty of every

man is to the woman he loves; that all the labors of his youth are merely preparation; that he endures hardships and sees battles and fights them if the chance comes for no other worthy purpose than to learn how to fight for her. And I haven't done it. I have been looking on and jotting down notes that I call stories. I'm through with it. To be plain with you, Jack, there is one high and holy task before me now, and the Lord, through you, has given me the grace to see it. Good night. Give my respectful thanks to Mr. Graham, You will see me again when I have cut my way out of the heart of this battle."

On the third day following this interview at the time of sunset Kendall knocked at the Camerons' door and was admitted. He was haggard and pale, but his eyes revealed an inexhaustible energy of spirit. He crossed the room quickly to where Edith sat by the western window and kissed her hand with a fine deference.

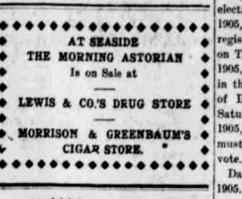
"What has happened?" she asked, looking up at him. "Something has come of all the mystery of these last few days. Is it a story?"

"Yes," said he; "a love story about and the much rarer gift of writing it, the prettiest girl that ever lived and the stupidest man that ever died-and perform the sad rites of homeless hos this job. Heat and cold, rain and didn't know it till one day he waked pitality. The aspect of his visitor was drought, good food, bad food and no up and saw that he was dead and came so clear in his imagination that he food at all; swamps, microbes and bul to life again. The occasion of this mirscarce saw her better after the door lets-I tell you Kendall eats them all acle was a conversation with an exwas open than before. She was a fad- and grows fat. The only thing that cellent friend who for the dead-alive ed woman of forty-five in whose face hurts him is a quiet life. I saw him in man's good suggested an expedition to

"Do you meen that you've really got the curve of the world from a little house bowered in roses. It shines into your cheeks. Come; there will be more color where the roses are. Let us go to

find them." "I dare not," she murmured, trembling.

"A gentleman connected with an express company," said he calmly, "will call for your baggage and your mother's tomorrow about this hour."



1905.

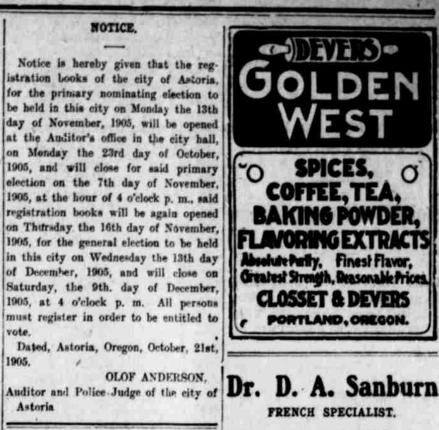
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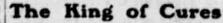
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there lurked an estonishing prettiness, Cuba and in the Philippines, and he the wilds of Manchuria, where, I am illusive and inappropriate to her years. the ghost of girlhood.

He gave her welcome from an honest heart, but with a feigned good cheer. was very fond of. I tell you, Graham, Would she come in? No; she was upon with these arrangements of yours and some errand and had merely stopped Kendall as your man you'll get the at his door. Nevertheless as he continued to stand waiting she entered and sat down.

"Edith has had breakfast," said she. "I brought up a cup of coffee and an much; the expenses are so heavy. He'll orange. She seems to feel better this morning."

smiling sadly, "to put a heart in one. May I go in by and by ?"

"Yes; right away," she said, rising. cigar viciously. "But you can boom ing table, "if it won't interrupt your work. Edith wants to see you."

stairs and then returned to his room, ing to bring his countenance into accord with them. When this process hall and saw a big, sturdy man as- the world." cending the stairs, which creaked loudly beneath him.

dall. "May I ask if you are going to see Miss Cameron?"

"Yes. I was on another call in the That will fetch him." house and met her mother, who suggested that I should go up."

mitted. Kendall eyed him with obvious, aching anxiety.

"Convalescence is a long business Cameron had a serious illness, and there is a sense in which she has recovered from it, but a complete restoration to health may be a very tedious process."

"Do you see any improvement?" The doctor shook his head, and to the have swakened my manhood." next question, "A loss, perhaps?" he answered with a guarded assent.

"I dread the winter," said Kendall, "If she could have a change of scene, if she could live an outdoor life in bealthful surroundings"-

"I understand that there is a pecunlary difficulty."

"They have a small property," rejoined Kendall, "but it is not yielding much income just now. I have looked somewhat easier in pocket. Meanwhile

he has a smattering of Japanese-had a Jap classmate in college whom he only good stuff that will have come from the east since the war began."

"There are two points," said Graham come back no richer except in reputation. Second, I wish that he had kept "There's nothing like a good square, himself more in the public eye of late. meal such as you mention," said he, He has sunk completely out of sight." "There's a reason for that, as I have

while her eyes wandered to the writ, him up. The public remembers him." "Well," Graham resumed after a

where he paced back and forth for only man who without offense can some minutes, forcing himself to think show him the folly of his present cheerful and brave thoughts and striv- conrse. Get him for me. I want him." "Without offense?" echoed Stetson. "I don't know. But I'll do my duty. had accomplished all that could be It isn't right that Ned Kendall should hoped of it in the light of his experi- wreck his career for the sake of any ence therewith he went out into the woman, though she were the best in

"Telegraph him to dine with you." suggested Graham. "Take him to Ju-"Good morning, doctor," said Ken- lian's, where the old crowd goes. Give him some raw meat and some good strong 'man talk,' as Kipling calls it.

It was half past 6 when Kendall and Stetson met at Julian's. Kendall was "Will you look in upon me after you weary with the day's ungrateful toil have seen her?" said Kendall, turning and gloomy thoughts: Stetson was toward his room. alert and keen, with the eyes of a hunt-It may have been half an hour later er. Fortune was kind; the right crowd when the doctor knocked and was ad- was there, the atmosphere of the scene was perfect, and Kendall, with languid surprise, saw himself welcomed as if from a long illness or the very sometimes," said the doctor. "Miss jaws of the grave. And in the exposition of the scheme Stetson surpassed all his own expectations.

"Jack," said Kendall at last, "I thank you from my soul. If this hour is the turning point of my life, as I truly believe, the credit is largely yours. You

"Thank the Lord!" responded Stetson fervently.

completely and now know nothing of barrel of red gold.

must change,"

was always in condition, always bright told, there is a war in progress. Inand cheerful and enthusiastic. Besides, stantly the awakened individual perhome in which he had an intimate concern. In the midst of the battle he saw the prettiest girl aforesaid desperately threatened and surrounded by foes. Now, which battle was his, think you? "It didn't take him long to decide, and he began to look to his weapons. slowly. "We cannot afford to pay In his right hand there was a pen-s good weapon in its way, but too slow for this emergency. So he reached up into the air and seized an idea which had the form and potency of a sharp sword. It had been within his reach and dimly perceived for many months. told you," said the other, biting his but he had been too sluggish to grasp it. Armed therewith, he hewed his way to the citadel of a powerful magician who sat by a barrel of bright pause, "I authorize you to lay this gold, with which he worked his won-He escorted her to the head of the proposition before him. You are his ders. This sword for a share of that closest friend, Stetson. You are the gold!" cried the invader, but the magician uttered a cold 'Ha, ha!'

"Thrice and four times the man returned to the attack, and each time the



"A LOVE STORY ABOUT THE PRETTIES GIRL THAT EVER LIVED.

"You have made an error, however," sword was sharpened upon hard facts Kendall continued, "a natural error, and polished with much thought. And which I will point out to you. We have at last he forced it into the hand of seen so little of each other in the past the great magician and was himself year that you have lost track of me next moment head and shoulders in the

my progress. I have advanced a great | "To be plain, Edith, I have done a distance, but you have thought of me pretty stroke of business. I have some as standing still just where you left | money down and some work to do and We all make such mistakes. We a good, safe contract for a sufficient Into the matter at Mrs. Cameron's re-hold the pictures of our friends as we salary. Dearest, look out into the west, quest. A year from now they will be last saw them and forget that they The tint in that sky shines up around

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